

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2433

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: ANTI-LIN PIAO CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES: PURGE IN CANTON
MILITARY REGION

REF: PEKING 1907

1. SUMMARY. A PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORT ON
THE REMOVAL OF OFFICERS IN THE CANTON MILITARY REGION
INDICATES THAT SIMILAR MEASURES WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN
IN OTHER UNITS, INCLUDING THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE
SHENYANG MILITARY REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CURRENT ANTI-LIN PIAO CAMPAIGN, WHICH STARTED WITH TENG
HSIAO-PING'S JUNE 2 SPEECH TO THE ALL-ARMY POLITICAL WORK
CONFRENECE, TOOK A SHARP TURN WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND CADRES IN THE CANTON MILITARY
REGION FOR A "SEVEN YEAR COVER-UP" OF CONNECTIONS WITH
THE LIN PIAO "ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE." THE REPORT, CARRIED
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ORIGINALLY IN THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, WAS SUMMAR-

IZED IN THE AUGUST 8 PEOPLE'S DAILY. WHILE WE DO NOT
HAVE ACCESS TO PROVINCIAL BROADCASTS FROM CANTON, THE
REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE CANTON MILITARY REGION HAS
BEEN THE FOCUS OF AN INTENSE INVESTIGATION IN THE PAST
FEW MONTHS WHICH PROBABLY EXPLAINS YEH CHIEN-YING'S

RUMORED TRIP TO THE AREA IN MAY. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORT MENTIONED RECENT DIRECTIVES BY YEH CHIEN-YING, TENG HSIAO-PING AND THE MILITARY COMMISSION ON PROBLEMS IN THE CANTON AREA. THE REPORT ALSO PRAISED CANTON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER HSU SHIH-YU AND FIRST POLITICAL COMMISSAR WEI KUO-CHING FOR THEIR ROLE IN EXPOSING THE COVERUP.

3. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE REPORT ALSO SAID A RECENT CENTRAL AND MILITARY COMMISSION DIRECTIVE STATED THAT DEEPENING THE GANG OF FOUR CAMPAIGN MUST INCLUDE THE "LIN PIAO PROBLEM.". TO UNDERScore THIS POINT, PEOPLE'S DAILY ALSO REPRINTED AN AUGUST 8 LIBERATION ARMY DAILY ARTICLE BY YEN SU ON THE NEED TO DEEPEN CRITICISM AND EXPOSURE OF THE LIN PIAO LINE.

4. COMMENT: DURING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GANG OF FOUR, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE PEKING MEDIA HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE CRIMES OF THE LIN PIAO "ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE" -- LANGUAGE THAT IMPLIES OFFICERS ONE ASSOCIATED WITH LIN PAIO WILL BE INVESTIGATED. BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF EXPOSING AND PURGING OFFICERS IN THE CANTON MILITARY REGION, THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT PURGES IN OTHER MILITARY REGIONS WILL FOLLOW. THIS WILL INEVITABLY TOUCH ON THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE
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SHENYANG MILITARY REGION. A HARD-HITTING PURGE IN SHENYANG WILL DIRECTLY EFFECT THE COMMANDER, LI TEH-SHENG, WHO IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF APPARENT INVOLVEMENT WITH THE GANG OF FOUR AND ITS FOLLOWERS.
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